

Goal

A society where healthy sexual relationships free of infection is the standard.

Overview

In 2004, sexually transmitted disease (STD), specifically chlamydia and gonorrhea, remained among the top ten most frequently reported communicable diseases in Kentucky. Also of significance was the number of persons diagnosed with AIDS/HIV disease and patients reported with infectious (primary or secondary) syphilis. Because of the frequency of asymptomatic disease, screening programs are of vital importance in controlling gonorrhea and chlamydia infections. Screening programs for gonorrhea using the culture method were begun in Kentucky in the late 1960s. Programs were expanded to include screening for chlamydia infection in the late 1980s via an improved testing modality known as nucleic acid probes which enabled testing for both infections from the same specimen. Further refinement in the nucleic acid probe technique has led to the development of amplified nucleic acid probe testing (a more sensitive screening test) which enables detection of chlamydia and gonorrhea from both urine specimens as well as from specimens collected from exposed sites.

The medical management of patients diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhea, and early syphilis (and their sexual partners) has been greatly enhanced by the use of single-dose regimens for treatment which have been in use since the early 1990s.

Sustained transmission of syphilis does not occur in most parts of Kentucky, but outbreaks continue to occur. Seventy one patients were diagnosed with early syphilis in Kentucky in calendar year 2004. The early syphilis cases were patients who had their infection less than one year and who potentially could have spread infection to their sexual partner(s). Only 14 (11.7 percent) of Kentucky's 120 counties reported early syphilis cases in 2004. Jefferson county residents accounted for 48 (67.6 percent) of the total, and residents of Fayette county were a distant second in reports with 7 cases (9.9 percent).

Summary of Progress

The incidence of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis has decreased from 2000 to 2004. In 2004 based on a population of 4,145,922 and 6470 chlamydia case reports, the incidence rate was 157.1 per 100,000 population. In 2003 the rate was 216.6 per 100,000 (8756 cases were reported). In 2004, 2758 gonorrhea cases were reported among Kentuckians for a rate of 66.5 per 100,000 population. Use of the more sensitive amplified nucleic acid probe test for gonorrhea detection will likely result in an increased number of cases detected and an increased incidence rate for gonorrhea through 2008.

Based on 47 primary and secondary cases reported in 2004, the rate per 100,000 population was 1.8 compared with 0.82 in 2003 when 33 cases were reported. Sporadic outbreaks in sub-populations in urban areas will likely continue. One case of congenital syphilis in a neonate was reported in calendar year 2004 among 53,654 recorded live births for a rate of 1.8 per 100,000 live births.

Progress toward Achieving Each HK 2010 Objective

Summary of Objectives for Sexually Transmitted Diseases	Baseline	HK 2010 Target	Mid-Decade Status	Progress	Data Source
25.1. Reduce the incidence of <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infections to no more than 140 cases per 100,000 population.	197.8 per 100,000 (2000)	≤140 per 100,000	157 per 100,000 (2004)	Yes	KYEPHRS
25.2. Reduce the incidence of gonorrhea to no more than 55 per 100,000 population.	99.3 per 100,000 (2001)	≤55 per 100,000	66.5 per 100,000 (2004)	Yes	KYEPHRS
25.3. Reduce the incidence of primary and secondary syphilis to no more than 0.27 cases per 100,000 population.	2.1 per 100,000 (2000)	≤.27 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000 (2004)	Yes	KYEPHRS
25.4. Reduce the incidence of congenital syphilis to a level not exceeding two (2) cases per 100,000 live births.	11.4 per 100,000 (1997)	≤2 per 100,000	1.8 per 100,000 (2004)	Target Achieved	KYEPHRS
25.5R. Reduce to 0 the incidence of a)chlamydial ophthalmia neonatorum and b)gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum.	a) 1.8 per 100,000 live births (2000)	0	0 (2003)	Target Achieved	KYEPHRS
	b) 1.8/100,000 live births	0	0	Target Achieved	
25.6. - 25.11. (DELETED)					

R = Revised objective